

Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

February 16, 2006

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

Dear President Bush:

I must admit that when I learned yesterday that you will be coming to Milwaukee next Monday, I was a bit taken aback. You see, months ago, I scheduled my "State of the City" Address for Monday morning, February 20. However, I soon realized that your visit presents a terrific opportunity for me – and for you. I want to invite you to take part in my State of the City Address.

On Monday morning, we will assemble a group of 250 – 300 local citizens, business and community leaders at Milwaukee's Bradley Technical High School, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. You may be interested to know that President Theodore Roosevelt visited Milwaukee Tech in its infancy, and I think it's high time that another President graced the hallways of a Milwaukee landmark. This would be your opportunity to experience firsthand the challenges and promise of today's urban America. And you will be afforded the respect and honor that your office commands – that is the Milwaukee way.

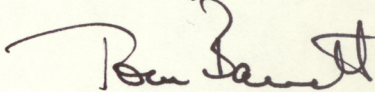
I will stand before this group and talk about the partnerships we need to ensure healthy starts for our families, educate our young people, curb violence on our streets, and put people to work in our new economy. When it comes down to it, those are your priorities as well.

Whether you can join me or not, I will give my address at 8:00 a.m. on Monday morning. As a former Member of Congress, I would welcome the opportunity to yield some of my time for you to speak as well.

While I did not attend this year's State of the Union Address, I attended many during my ten years in Congress, including a couple of yours. There is nothing quite like the sense of hope and optimism that envelops any listener who is in that House Chamber, even in this era of pitched political battles. I don't pretend that my speech compares, but this is our time to lay out a vision for hope and optimism at a time when American cities need them. It would be our honor and pleasure if you choose to join us.

I look forward to hearing from your office regarding this offer soon. Please feel free to have anyone involved in your visit contact me personally at (414) 286-6202 if there are things we can do to make your trip more enriching and smooth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tom Barrett", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Barrett
Mayor